

the way of progress. Therefore slavoholding is not to be denounced as anti-Christian!

DAVID ATCHISON.

The New York Times presents the following true picture of this favorite of the Administration—the third member of the firm of Pierce, Douglas, Atchison, and Stringfellow:

Comparative physiology has no difficulty in classifying such characters as that of the ex-President of the Senate. He belongs to a species familiar to all residents in the West. They are found in every bar-room, and turn up inevitably at political meetings and elections. They are usually small lawyers, of Democratic professions, and of vile habits; affecting vulgarity of dress, manners, and association; in order to rid themselves of any suspicions of aristocratic pretension, against which the unwhim and unkempt sons of the prairie have an implacable prejudice. They may be seen loitering about the saloons, smoking their pipes, and discussing the squabbles of the tavern, stock-exchange, and the market, with a huge quid of tobacco in the cheek, or a cigar flaming from one corner of the mouth. They may be heard swaggering and blustering wherever a lazy village audience can be gathered together, unsparing in profanity, and as ready with a blow or a bow-kick as with the tongue. They are the squires of the frontier, the bar-room and the barrel, than as barristers. They take the only daily paper received in the town, and are on hand to read it, when the mail arrives, to an admiring audience, who accept the text and the running commentary of the village politician with the same docility as the schoolboy receives, therefore, the catechism to all sorts of conventions; they can quarrel, and are, therefore, the men to "stump" a District, or the State, as disputants, Western-wise, where opposing candidates hunt for votes in couples. The only capital needed for entire success in the trade is impudence, volubility, black-guardism, profanity, drunkenness, ferocity, and the power to quarrel with a representative of a gentleman; and so qualified, the frontier lawyer and politician is a rising man.

And such a man this Atchison—a poor specimen of the class, however, because, wholly void of talent, which is not one of its rarest characteristics. He is a man who has no other than a man's destitute of merit as his. Noisy and brawling in the lobby, he has been notable for anything less or well-said in the Senate Chamber. The *Congressional Globe* would have held his fame by leaving blanks after each recurrence of his name. His presence indeed is a perpetual tribute to the long-suffering of the Senate. It has experience of some of the most obstinate and noisy members of the small in name and kind; Norris, of New Hampshire, was there. Men have been there—like Jarman, of Tennessee, whose luckless vote on the Tariff killed him and it—whose good name has been sold for nothing; blackheads and bullies have been there, like J. H. Randolph—a human creature of both; and many men have been there, like that Pennsylvania statesman whose devotion to railroad speculation contributed to the loss of Kansas and Nebraska to freedom. But the history of the Senate records no instance where it has enjoyed the society and sweet counsel of a member so thoroughly accomplished in little, mean, stupid, raffishly attributes, as this frontier pettifogger.

MR. RICHARDSON.

We have rarely found so much truth in so few words, as in the following pithy extracts from our little contemporary, the *Cleveland*:

There are but two higher officers on earth than that of Speaker of the House of Representatives of the American Congress; and yet the man who or a few days has received the most votes for that position, was W. A. Richardson, of Illinois. We have seen him, Mr. Richardson, last summer, at Lake Michigan, and found him to be a six-foot-fifty, disreputable in person, blackguard in language, drunken in habit, and a man who, judged as a man as could not obtain admission to any Cleveland society of respectability. Should he be elected, it would be a disgrace to humanity, to the Union, and to republicanism; and an evidence that republicans are not only "ungrateful," but shameless.

And this is Mr. Douglas's man Friday; the imbecile and imbecile of the Nebraska Bill; the man who has been the "Locusts with a lead," the office of Speaker of the House of Representatives! We verily believe that the standard of morality among the leaders of that party is becoming lower and lower every day. How long will public sentiment tolerate such men!

The *Chicago Citizen*, in an article referring to Mr. would-be-Speaker Richardson, as portrayed by the *Cleveland*, says: "He may be dirty and a

blackguard, and a drunken, coarse fellow, but these characteristics are popular with the Democracy; they like such things all the better for them. Were he clean, and decent, and temperate, and intellectual, they would think him an Abolitionist, or a Kook Nothing, and hate him. A dirty shirt, a month full of tobacco and oaths, a stomach full of whiskey, and a bottle in his pocket, are worth more to an Illinois Locofoco politician than all the fine residences in Cleveland would be. Such are the men who would make apothecaries of a little drunken blackguard named Douglas. Such are the men who call all who will not bow down to slavery, *Niggers*.—*Leader*.

MR. BANKS AND HIS CATECHISERS.

HOUSE.—A resolution to elect a speaker by plurality was rejected by 15 majority. The House voted with the following result:—Banks 101, Richardson 73, Fuller 37, scattering 11.

Mr. Lester having received from time to time two votes for speaker, stated distinctly that he had never been a candidate for the office, and never would be. He stated this, lest it might be suspected that there was something in the air, and that he was not. He had, he said, regularly and consistently voted for Mr. Banks as any other man in the House.

Mr. Stewart, in explaining the reason why he had been voting for Mr. Richardson, said that his (Mr. R.'s) position, as well as Mr. Fuller's, had been explained distinctly and explicitly, but Mr. Banks' had not. He inquired of Mr. B. whether he ever said in a speech in Maine, 'Let the Union slide'?

Mr. Banks replied that in that speech he said there might be such a state of things in which he would consent to such a proposition. He had referred to future contingencies, such as the restoration of the gigantic power of the government to the support of a single institution, slavery. He was for the Union as it is, and would meet its enemies in a fair field. He was for the Union as the guaranty of the rights of the States, and the main pillar of our government.

He would have the Union stand on the records of history in the language of Washington, 'crowned with immortal fame.'

Mr. Smith, of Va.—I am not satisfied with the answer of the gentleman. Did you say, 'under certain circumstances, you would let the Union slide'?

Mr. Banks—I have said all I desire to say.

Mr. Smith, of Va.—I wish it to be distinctly understood that those who sustain Mr. Banks are voting for him with the knowledge that in a certain contingency he would let the Union slide.

Mr. Groves said, I ask the gentleman, and every member who has been here for the last four years, whether such a declaration has not been repeated from time to time by some of those who are now voting for Mr. Richardson, namely, that they are willing to dissolve the Union, and let it slide, in a certain contingency. We stand here to support the compromise of the constitution as it is explained by the fathers of the Republic and contemporaries of the great men of the Revolution. We say we are not willing to take any other construction, or to consent that slavery shall go wherever our flag floats.

Mr. Rust said he believed from the beginning that all debate was out of order, as the first business before the House was the election of a speaker.

Mr. Stewart submitted a proposition declaratory of the national principles on which the speaker of the House should stand.

Mr. Colfax stated that if Mr. Stewart would accept as a substitute a proposition for the annexation of Cuba, and appropriating by annexation of that part of Oregon situated north of Great Britain by Mr. Polk, he might vote with that gentleman. [Laughter.]

Mr. Boeck raised a question of order, saying the law required that a speaker be elected, and members be sworn in, before the transaction of other business.

Mr. Boyce, among other questions, asked Mr. Banks as follows:—Are you in favor of recognizing Hayti, and receiving a black minister? Do you favor the abrogation of the Fugitive Slave Law, and the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia? [Cries from the friends of Mr. Banks, 'Call the roll.' Confusion.]

Mr. Banks replied to Mr. Boyce, and said he distinctly recollected Mr. Richardson being a candidate for speaker, declining to give answers to questions propounded to him. [Laughter; cries of 'good, good—call the roll, &c.']

Mr. Florence here made an ineffectual attempt to have the House adjourn until Thursday, for the purpose, as he said, that members might participate in the religious and social observances of Christmas. [Laughter.]

Mr. Brooks said he was willing to let the Union slide. If the gentlemen on the other side who support Mr. Banks have that fine determination, he wanted his constituents to know it. He desired the issue made here, that it might be frankly met, if necessary.

Mr. Shorter, although voting for Mr. Richardson, was willing to unite on some other conservative candidate who believes that the Missouri line should not be removed, in order to effect an election. The House then voted, with the following result: Banks 101, Richardson 72, Fuller 31, Pennington 4, scattering 7; necessary to a choice, 108.

Mr. Nichols offered a resolution, that a speaker be elected by a plurality vote. Tabled by 110 against 101.

Mr. Orr moved that when the House adjourn, it be till Thursday.

Mr. Giddings—We have no power to adjourn; if the motion were agreed to, a majority may come here to-morrow, reverse the order, and elect a speaker.

Mr. Orr—If a speaker were elected under such circumstances, the majority would find Jordan a hard road to travel. [Laughter.]

Mr. Florence—And it would be a very pretty example for Christian men to set the country. [Meriment.]

Mr. Orr's motion was then negatived, and the House adjourned until Wednesday.

OVERSEERISM IN CONGRESS.

Our readers will find, in the Congressional record, a small specimen of that insolent overbearing which some of the Southern members of Congress are so constantly attempting to exercise over Northern men, that it has become a staple commodity with that class of fire-eaters devoted to the Slave Power. We refer to the inquisitorial process which one William Smith, of Virginia, undertook to institute over Mr. Banks, of Massachusetts, on Monday last, in regard to the vital crime of having said in a speech in Maine, last fall, something to this effect, viz.—that, if ever the gigantic power of this government should be prostituted chiefly to the propagation of human slavery, he would be willing to let the Union slide! And for uttering this sentiment, and representing it as the opinion of the Virginian's peculiar proclivities, was made during a debate at the first session of the last Congress. While the appropriation bill was up, and the clause providing for the payment of Mr. Edward Riddle, of Boston, for his services in the Crystal Palace Exhibition, was before the House, this Smith spoke sneeringly and contemptuously of Mr. Riddle as a 'honest dealer and auctioneer in the city of Boston.' Mr. Hughes, of New York, in reply, remarked: 'It was said by the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. Smith] that Mr. Riddle was a dealer and auctioneer in Massachusetts. I ask if it is worse to be a horse dealer in Massachusetts, than to run a line of stage coaches in Virginia, or any other State, whether it be a regular or extra line of coaches?' Mr. Smith then disclaimed any intention to reflect upon Mr. Riddle, and Mr.

Hughes continued: 'It was stated as a matter of reflection upon Mr. Riddle, as I thought, I know him well; and he is as high-minded and honorable a gentleman as lives in Massachusetts—pursuing his business in a laudable way. If he sells any thing, he sells *quadrupeds*, not *hogs*; and I am glad that his vocation is of that description—his auctioneering of that sort.'

The same Mr. Smith is the gentleman who had a street fight, and a bout at fistfists with a Washington editor in Pennsylvania Avenue, on Friday last. These things show his calibre. What claim such a man has to set himself up as a grand inquisitor, and insolently and offensively to dominate over Northern members, it is difficult to say.

But we were wasting too much ink on the redoubtable Mr. Smith. Our main purpose was to protest against the insolent and insulting tone and manner which many Southern representatives are accustomed to assume towards Northern members and the North, on the slightest provocation, and with-out any provocation at all. The occasion alluded to is but one among the smallest of the exhibitions of this propensity. It must be that the horrible crime of Mr. Banks, in their estimation, consisted, though in an infinitesimal degree, in positing on that peaceful domain, Disunionism. It is their distinctive thought, and no Northern man must dare to appropriate it even in homopathic doses. Southern Conventions can deal in it at wholesale; Southern Governors can make it the staple of every annual message; Southern demagogues can threaten it from every stump; and the South generally may be said to be in a constant state of insurrection against the Union, and the North must not the Northern orator make the most distant allusion to it as an escape from any conceivable tyranny or evil, or there will be a hue and cry raised to hunt him from the face of the earth as a sinner beyond political redemption. And, strange to say, there are lickspittles and demagogues at the North, ready and eager not only to receive in their own hands, but to magnify the offence and furnish materials for attack. Now, disunionism has never obtained any available foothold at the North—and the demagogues who endeavor to affix the taint upon Mr. Banks, or any other New England Representative, know the insipidity of the charge, and are groundless. Disunionism is a bugbear peculiarly Southern, and the taint comes with a decidedly ill grace from those whose nauseating use of this Southern remedy on all occasions is as silly as it is disgusting. It is quite time that the entire North should learn to feel this insolent and menacing spirit will not cease until it has itself manifested sufficient self-respect to repudiate the tribe of doughfakes within its own limits, and to show a proper resentment for all invasions of its own rights and constitutional privileges.

FOREFATHERS' DAY AT PLYMOUTH.

[Continuation of the Anti-Slavery Standard.]

Boston, Dec. 24, 1855.

I am just returned from Plymouth, where the Old Colony Anti-Slavery Society held its annual Celebration of Forefathers' Day. I told you, several years ago, how it happened that the Pilgrim Society having let the day drop, the Abolitionists, with that meddlesomeness which is the badge of all their tribe, picked it up, and perverted it from its proper ends to their own base ends.

It is a good opportunity of magnifying the Fathers, for the purpose of inferring how much more enlightened, wise and intelligent the Sons are, they have, for several years, used it as an opportunity of venting their spleen against our most cherished institutions, as well as against our First Men. This year, however, the Virginian Society did hold a Celebration, which was a good thing, for those fellows that go about turning the world upside down would not be content without having their fingers in the pie again, (in fact, if they did not have their fingers in an infinite variety of pies, it was not the fault of the Plymouth people,) and though it is no more than due to you to take a look after them.

The meetings were held on Saturday evening, the 23d, and all day and evening on Sunday, at the usual hours of service. They were held in Davis's Hall, a new, large and handsome room, in a building erected by Mr. Charles G. Davis, who was the first mayor of the city of Boston, and who, by the way, did hold a Celebration, which was a good thing, for those fellows that go about turning the world upside down would not be content without having their fingers in the pie again, (in fact, if they did not have their fingers in an infinite variety of pies, it was not the fault of the Plymouth people,) and though it is no more than due to you to take a look after them.

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THE LIBERATOR.

No Union with Slaveholders.

BOSTON, JANUARY 4, 1856.

ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

MASSACHUSETTS ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

The Twenty-Third Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society will be held in Boston, on THURSDAY and FRIDAY, January 24th and 25th—commencing at 10 o'clock, A. M., and continuing its sessions through the day and evening.

Auxiliary associations, and members and friends of the Society, are requested to make early and sure arrangements to be strongly represented on the occasion.

The fact, that a most encouraging change has taken place in the public sentiment of the Commonwealth, and also of the entire North, on the subject of slavery, instead of inducing a state of repose or a lack of vigilance, should stimulate to greater activity and more determined effort for the utter overthrow of that foul and hideous system, which is the curse and shame of the country, full of danger and woe, and the sum of all villainies. A more glorious struggle the world has never witnessed. Its successful termination, in the liberation and enfranchisement of FOUR MILLIONS OF CHATELAIN SLAVES, will be an irresistible blow struck for the freedom of the human race, now kept in thralldom by the unparalleled hypocrisy and base apostasy of this pseudo 'model republic.' Once more, then, to the onset, with a self-sacrificing spirit and heroic determination which shall laugh to scorn all the threats and machinations of the Slave Power! We cannot be defeated.

FRANCIS JACKSON, President.

ROBERT F. WALLACE, Secretary.

OUR NEW VOLUME.

With the New Year, we commence the Twenty-Sixth Volume of THE LIBERATOR. A quarter of a century, therefore, has been actively devoted to the cause of our enslaved fellow-countrymen, since we unfurled the banner of Immediate and Unconditional Emancipation in this city. We feel as much disposed to continue the conflict to the end as we did to begin it. Whatever phases it may yet assume, to whatever extent it may be prolonged, we shall never lay down our arms until slavery be exterminated, or our earthly career terminated.

We profess to our many beloved friends and faithful coadjutors the warmest salutations and best wishes of the season. They have stood by us with a firmness and fidelity worthy of the noblest cause of the age, and we are confident they will endure to the end.

Our delinquent subscribers will pardon us if we remind them that, by the terms of our paper, payment is required in advance. Such as are owing from the first of January, 1855, to the first of January, 1856,—we are requested to state by the Financial Committee,—will have their paper stopped on the first of February ensuing, unless their bills are previously settled.

LECTURE OF S. J. MAY—THE RISE AND PROGRESS OF ANTI-SLAVERY.

Boston, Dec. 28, 1855.

DEAR GARRISON: Last evening, I heard the lecture of SAMUEL J. MAY in Tremont Temple. I went there expecting much, and received all I expected. He delineated the spirit of liberty as it was manifested by the men of the Revolution. He did ample justice to those men, giving them full credit for all they did, but marking emphatically the one dark spot on their character.

Who said, 'Give me liberty or give me death?' Patrick Henry. 'Yet,' said the lecturer, 'Patrick Henry lived and died a slaveholder. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence, and declared before all nations, for the first time, as a basis of government, the self-evident truth that God creates all men free? Thomas Jefferson. Yet Thomas Jefferson lived and died a slaveholder, declaring all the time that not one attribute of the Almighty could take sides with slaveholders in an insurrection of the slaves; and that he and his fellow-slaveholders were inflicting on the slaves an oppression, "one hour of which was more intolerable than ages of that which the fathers of the Revolution rebelled to oppose." With all this light, we were assured that Thomas Jefferson lived and died a slaveholder; and the lecturer might have added that he left his own offspring in slavery, and to this day they are held and used as chattels.

Who led the armies of the Revolution through seven years' war? George Washington. Yet, we were truthfully assured that Washington lived and died a slaveholder.

Mr. May bewailed their mistake, and their inconsistency; but said that this sore blot would stick to Washington, and that time could never erase it.

He showed us the first fatal step in our nation's downward course to ruin—i. e. Liberty consenting to enter into an alliance with Slavery, to form a government. He gave a striking and graphic sketch of the present movement against slavery. To those of us who remember your first efforts in behalf of the slave, your brief connection with Lundy, your imprisonment in Baltimore, those lines of power you inscribed on your prison walls, your deliverance, your first efforts in Boston, your first lecture, your first efforts to form a society, and to publish THE LIBERATOR; the efforts of the May-ers of Boston, Harrison Gray Otis, to hunt you up and report your doings to the Governor of South Carolina; your expedition of, and your assault upon, the Colonization Society—to those of us, I say, who remember those days of small beginning, his words had a deep and holy impact. He claimed for you, that the spirit which arrayed you against the demon that held this nation in his grasp, had, through your zeal and devotion, given a direction to the spirit of the age and nation. The nation was asleep on the brink of a precipice,—it is now awake; it was dead,—it is now alive; and if it plunges down the dark, deep abyss, it must do so with its eyes open. Yours was the voice which said to this nation:—Arise, come forth from the grave in which Slavery has buried thee! Church and State have heard the call, and can never sleep again, till slavery or the republic is extinguished forever.

Mr. May emphatically announced ABOLITION ON DISSOLUTION as the only alternative. I could not but feel that no man is so fitted to write the history of Anti-Slavery, as it has been declared and conducted by the American Anti-Slavery Society, as Samuel J. May. He has been a part of it from the beginning; his spirit and nature preeminently fit him to enter into, and appreciate the loving, the determined, uncompromising martyr spirit in which it originated, and has ever been conducted. That spirit of heroic devotion to principle, to Liberty, to Humanity, to God, he can comprehend. I wish he could deliver that lecture in all our principal towns. It would do much to settle men's minds on the final issue.

As I sat in that Temple, listening to that lecture, I could not but look back to December, 1835. Two thousand people present, listening in silence or loud applause to sentiments for which you were mobbed and dragged through the streets of Boston, and confined in a prison, twenty years ago. What has done this? But one answer can be given—the spirit of heroic devotion, not to a sect or party, not to a creed, or constitution, but to MAN; to rescue the nature you bear from the auction-block of the American Church and Union; that spirit which says, *Resistance to slavery is obedience to God*; the spirit which consecrates man, and elevates him above all his political, religious, social and educational surroundings.

Dear Garrison,—God grant you may live in the body to see the final overthrow of American slavery, against which you have so long and bravely battled, 'without concealment and without compromise.'

HENRY C. WRIGHT.

FOREFATHERS' DAY AT PLYMOUTH.

A public meeting of the friends of freedom, in connection with a meeting of the Old Colony Anti-Slavery Society, was held in Davis's Hall, Plymouth, on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 23d and 24th.

The Chair was occupied by BUREN BROOKER, President of the Society.

Edmond Quincy, Wendell Phillips and Samuel Dyer were appointed a Committee on Business, and Lewis Ford, Johnson Davis and Nathaniel B. Spooner a Committee on Finance.

Mr. Quincy, in some opening remarks, alluded to the great speech of Webster, on Plymouth Rock, in 1820, and to Everett's four years after, and compared the calmness and quiet of the people then with the state of feeling now, when men's hearts were failing them for fear. He thought it fortunate that the people had an opportunity of coming here yesterday, and hearing of the 'Higher Law' expounded by its great apostle (Gov. Seward). Men, said Mr. Q., are beginning to open their eyes to the colossal wrong of this land.

The American nation is striving like some giant, feeling that he ought to awake, but failing asleep again. What a mighty dream between the times of Webster and Seward! We were by lightning now, and it will be a matter of history that the name of GARRISON will be a landmark, an era. Mr. Q. believed the time would yet come when Plymouth Rock would utter a distinct sound on this great question.

Mr. Reed, of Abington, spoke of the ever-memorable 1835, and of the great change wrought in public opinion since the mobbing of George Thompson in Abington. He thought the clergy were glad to get on board the boat that was drifting onward with the mighty current.

Mr. Phillips followed in a short speech, showing the wonderful effects of slavery on the literature and morals of the age. He also spoke of the need of an Independent Judiciary.

SUNDAY—MORNING SESSION.

Mr. Wyman, of New York, first spoke on the general subject of slavery, remarking that, whether the government shall be dissolved and anarchy come or not, men are assembled to-day by hundreds, with all the implements of warfare, to establish a free State. This progressive sentiment cannot be kept down. The man who plants burlesque to keep down old ocean's surges is wise compared with him who makes the useless attempt.

Mr. Phillips said that party after party has been obliged to yield to this anti-slavery sentiment. It is constantly on the increase, and never still; yet government is stronger than ever, and slavery rules the country. Nothing has yet been gained but light. It is thought by some that Pierce, or one like him, be again elevated, half of Mexico will be annexed, and twenty slave States added. Administration measures seldom fail. He should not be surprised if some Southern bravo should yet marshal his slaves on Bunker Hill. Reformers have an odious office to perform, as reformers must always be aggressive. The old must be taken down to make place for the new. What we want is anti-slavery meetings of this kind, to talk about it.

We want a living testimony, a Mordcai at the king's gate, to set the people thinking. Mr. P. related the story of the boy who, on going a voyage, received a fairy gift of a mill, which would grind out coffee, salt, &c., as required. The sea-captain wanted salt, set the mill in motion, and salt came in abundance. Enough obtained, he desired to stop the mill, but knew not how to do so. The mill kept on grinding and grinding, and finally sank the vessel. So the mill of human progress has ground out a Garrison, and many say it will sink the ship; but he believed humanity would rejoice when the pirate ship went down.

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